MORE AMERICANS WERE UNINSURED AND POOR IN 2003, CENSUS FINDS

Excerpted from an article by David Leonhardt in the August 27, 2004 New York Times

The ranks of the poor and those without health insurance grew in 2003 for the third straight year, the government reported...in a sign of the lingering pain being caused by a long slump in the job markets. Those trends, spelled out by the United States Census Bureau, signaled a clear shift in the way the 2001 recession and its aftermath have spread across the country. The economy’s troubles, which first affected high-income families even more than the middle class and poor, have recently hurt families at the bottom and in the middle significantly more than those at the top. Median household income rose at about the same rate as inflation last year after three years of relative declines, according to the report. But the disparity in incomes between the rich and poor grew after having fallen in 2002. Pay did not keep pace with inflation in the South, already the nation’s poorest region, in cities, or among immigrants. And the wage gap between men and women widened for the first time in four years.

Poverty rose most sharply among single-parent families last year. Health-insurance coverage fell only for families with annual income of less than $75,000. The national poverty rate rose to 12.5 percent last year, from 12.1 percent in 2002. After dropping rapidly in a long economic boom and a government war on poverty in the 1960’s, from more than 22 percent in 1960, the rate has changed relatively little over the last four decades. It was slightly higher in 2003 than in 1969. A family of two adults and two children with an income of less than $18,660 was considered poor last year. “We have had a generation with basically no progress against poverty,” said Sheldon Danziger, a professor of public policy at the University of Michigan. “The economic growth is not trickling down to the poor.” Depending on their political beliefs, economists tend to place varying portions of blame for this on a rise in single-parent families, a withering of good jobs for people without college degrees and a shift away from anti-poverty programs by the federal government.

The number of uninsured Americans rose last year largely because fewer companies were providing health benefits to their workers than in the past, the Census Bureau reported. Almost 16 percent of people did not have health insurance last year, up from 14.2 percent in 2000. Median household income declined slightly last year, by $63 to $43,318, but census officials said the change was not statistically significant. Since peaking in 1999 at the equivalent of $44,922 in 2003 with inflation taken into account, median household income has fallen more than $1,600, or 3.6 percent, though it remained higher last year than at any point before the late 1990’s.

Pay fell last year for households in rural areas and in cities, where income is less than the national average, by a greater percentage than it did for those in suburbs, the bureau said. After reaching an all-time high in 2002, the earnings of full-time female workers relative to their male counterparts fell slightly last year, to 75.5 percent. Income also dropped more for Hispanics than for whites, though it remained essentially unchanged for black households. Over all, the highest-earning fifth of households took home 49.8 percent of the nation’s income last year, up from the 49.7 percent in 2002 and 44.7 percent in 1983. Those figures exaggerate income inequality somewhat, however, because they do not include taxes and because wealthy households are larger on average than poor ones.
MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With our international conference on overcoming health disparities through partnerships just a month away, now is a good time to share some exciting conference highlights and let you know our plans for future CCPH programs and activities.

This year’s conference, October 6-10, 2004 in Atlanta, GA USA is notable for a number of reasons. The result of a collaboration between CCPH and The Network: Toward Unity for Health, the conference has a global focus and will feature partnerships between communities, health services and health professional schools from around the world. Indeed, individuals from over 40 countries are already registered to attend! It’s not too late to register at http://www.thenetworktufh.org/conference. Featured keynote speakers include David Satcher, former US Surgeon General; Tim Evans, Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization; and Andrea Cruz of the Southeast Georgia Communities Project. The higher registration fee this year is due to a longer conference with more meals, off-site events and community site visits than we’ve ever had before. It is also balanced by the fact that CCPH will not be sponsoring a major conference in 2005. We will be resuming our usual spring conference schedule in the Spring of 2006.

This fall and through 2005, we are planning a number of programs and activities designed to promote member professional development and to disseminate models and best practices in health-promoting community-campus partnerships, including:

- Fall 2004 teleconferences on building service-learning partnerships and on the evidence base for community-based participatory research
- Fall 2004 call for nominations for next year’s annual Community-Campus Partnerships for Health award (this year’s award winner will be announced at the conference in Atlanta)
- Summer 2005 introductory and advanced service-learning institutes
- Fall 2005 call for proposals for the Spring 2006 CCPH conference
- Theme issues of Partnership Matters newsletter on eliminating health disparities and increasing health workforce diversity, along with corresponding resource pages on the CCPH website

As details become available, we will keep you posted through this newsletter and CCPH’s monthly e-news. To sign up for the e-news, just send an email request to ccphuw@u.washington.edu. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to email me directly at sarena@u.washington.edu. I hope to see you in Atlanta next month!

REPORT ON ENHANCING PUBLIC INPUT AND TRANSPARENCY IN RESEARCH PRIORITY-SETTING NOW AVAILABLE

In April 2004, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s Council of Public Representatives (COPR) presented a report providing recommendations to the Director on how to enhance public input and transparency in the research priority-setting process at the NIH. The report presented eleven recommendations covering topics such as outreach to communities and partnerships with outside groups, communications with research and patient communities, and public education of the priority-setting process. “The NIH has a duty to educate members of the public about its mission and operations and a duty to involve the public in the research priority-setting process,” said Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., Director of the NIH. “I am encouraged by the COPR’s report of NIH’s best practices in public outreach and look forward to working with COPR to enhance the public’s role in the priority-setting process.”

In its report, the COPR assessed how the NIH includes members of the public in its work, highlighted effective strategies, and recommended that the NIH expand these best practices. The COPR analysis revealed many ways in which the NIH effectively advises, educates, and seeks input from the public. The COPR focused on how the public is heard in the process the NIH uses to determine which research projects to fund, called the research priority-setting process. The COPR believes that public input into the research priority-setting process is important, because decisions to fund specific research initiatives over others have direct implications for the public’s health. In its report, the COPR also urged the NIH to carefully and regularly work with the various publics it serves by reaching out to patients, patient advocates, constituency groups, and related organizations. The report states that these various segments of the public can and should play a broader role in the research priority-setting process, and that the NIH should continue to seek, enhance, and consider public input.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Fall “Member-Get-A-Member” Campaign!
More CCPH members means a diversity of viewpoints, ideas and perspectives and a stronger voice to influence policies that affect community-campus partnerships. When you recruit new members you’ll also reward yourself. When you recruit a new CCPH member, both you and the new member will be entered into a drawing for $100 CCPH dollars. These dollars can be used to purchase CCPH products, such as publications, registrations for CCPH events and additional memberships. In addition, the CCPH member who recruits the most new members will receive $150 CCPH dollars! Start recruiting now - this special ends on January 30th, 2005!


Make sure the new member enters your name in the application section, “How did you hear about CCPH?” If you have any questions, or would like us to send you some CCPH membership brochures, please contact us at (206) 543-8178 or ccphuw@u.washington.edu.

SERVICE-LEARNING LISTERV

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (NSLC) invites anyone who is interested in service-learning to join the free NSLC online discussion list for higher education service-learning. As the senior program advisor to the NSLC for higher education service-learning, CCPH frequently posts announcements about funding, conferences and publications to this list, as well as responds to requests posted by subscribers. Join lively dialogues with peers and experts...sign up now!

Send an email to join-he-sl@lists.etrc.org following these instructions:

1. Leave the subject line blank, and
2. Remove any appended signatures. To learn more about the NSLC, visit http://www.servicelearning.org.

CCPH FEATURED MEMBER

A Passion for Building Formal and Informal Bridges, Links and Connections Where All Partners Benefit

New CCPH Featured Member: Walid El Ansari. Walid is Reader in Public Health for the Postgraduate Programme in Public Health at the School of Health & Social Care at Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, England. He is also a member of WHO’s invitation-only Network of Innovators, Observatory on Health Care for Chronic Conditions in Geneva, Switzerland. In his interview, Walid explains the Programme’s focus on the determinants of health and of health inequalities, and its deep roots in a wide range of partnerships. In describing what community-campus partnerships mean to him, Walid says “It means a great network of like-minded people who are supporting each other in their efforts to bring about better health and quality of life to underserved people. It is an appreciation of skills that different people bring to the efforts. It is a forum for interaction, planning, consultations, joint decision-making and implementation. It is the linking of community and campus perspectives for debates, synergy and forward change.”

For the full text of the interview go to http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/featuredmember.html.
To read about previous featured members go to http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/pastfeaturedmembers.html.

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The report, Enhancing Public Input and Transparency in the National Institutes of Health Research Priority-Setting Process, is available online at http://copr.nih.gov/reports/enhancing.pdf. The NIH Director’s Council of Public Representatives was established by the NIH Director in 1998 in response to a need identified in the Institute of Medicine (IoM) report, Scientific Opportunities and Public Needs: Improving Priority Setting and Public Input at the National Institutes of Health. The COPR is the primary mechanism by which public representatives can provide their perspective on matters of public interest and can work with the NIH leadership to increase public awareness of NIH and how it functions. The IoM report is available to purchase at http://www.iom.edu/report.asp?id=5682. Additional information on the COPR is available at http://copr.nih.gov/ and more information on public participation at the NIH is available at http://www.getinvolved.nih.gov. For information on community-based participatory research, please visit http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/commbas.html.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We welcome announcements, comments and questions from you! Please forward them to the PM Editor at ccphpm@u.washington.edu. Below are some simple submission guidelines:

• Please limit announcements and questions to not more than 150 words. As for articles and editorials, not more than 250 words;
• Provide the names of all authors, their current institutional affiliations and/or photos;
• Explain all abbreviations and unusual terms when first used.
UPCOMING EVENTS!

CCPH SPONSORED EVENTS
For more event listings, see CCPH’s website at http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conferences.html

October 6-10, 2004: CCPH and The Network: Toward Unity for Health are cosponsoring an International Conference: Overcoming Health Disparities: Global Experiences from Partnerships Between Communities, Health Services and Health Professional Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, USA that will replace our individual conferences for that year. By collaborating in these and other ways, we hope to strengthen the many wonderful partnerships already underway around the world, as well as to engage new individuals and organizations in this important work. For more information, visit http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/nationalconference.html. For more information on The Network, visit http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/. See our Executive Director’s comments on the upcoming conference on page 2. Site visit descriptions are now available: http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/programme.asp?id=48&type=1

November 6-10, 2004: Join CCPH at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in Washington, DC. The CCPH Member’s Guide to the APHA Conference is your “cheat sheet” of sessions on community-campus partnerships, community-based participatory research and service-learning! View the Member’s Guide online at http://www.ccph.info. To learn more about the APHA conference, visit http://www.apha.org.

OTHER EVENTS

September 10, 2004: Service-Learning/Civic Engagement and Homeland Security/Domestic Preparedness Workshop in Panama City, Florida. This is an opportunity to learn what some community colleges are doing to meet homeland security and domestic preparedness needs by using service-learning and civic engagement, as well as, leveraging existing resources. http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/other/engagement/SAFEProject/FLTrainingFlyer.pdf
• 13-17, 2004: Bridging the Gap Medical Interpreter Training in Santa Rosa, California. The program helps interpreters and institutions implement professional standards for medical interpreting all around the US. http://xculture.org/training/schedule/detail.cfm?ID=177&list=183,177,178,182,180,181
• 28-29, 2004: Civic Engagement Institute for Academic Leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Minnesota Campus Compact: http://www.mncampuscompact.org

• 28-31, 2004: Student Summit on Community Leadership in Washington, D.C. The summit is for all students who want to become more actively involved in helping their communities. http://www.acui.org/Acui/Programs/program_details.cfm?id=1596
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Images of Peer Review Investigators who have never served as reviewers often wonder what actually happens at a study section meeting. To show you reviewers in action, studying and debating the applications, the NIH Center for Scientific Review recruited a professional photographer to produce an exhibit entitled “Images of Peer Review.” View the photos online at: http://www.esr.nih.gov.

Comments on Proposed AIDS-Related Research Sponsored by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine has submitted a letter to CDC regarding the proposed revision of interim HIV content guidelines for AIDS-related materials developed through, or with, CDC support. "Two of the proposed revisions may be of major concern to CCPH members. The first concern is the usage of terminology to prevent condom use as a means for educating the public on AIDS prevention. The second concern is the new mandate requiring all AIDS-related materials be reviewed by the current required program review panels and undergo an independent review by the state and/or local health department to ensure the AIDS-related materials are in compliance with Sections 2500 and 317B of the Public Health Service Act. To view a copy of the Proposed Revision of the Interim HIV Content Guidelines please refer to the June 16, 2004 Federal Register notice pages 33824-33826. http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/

Coming Soon—New Patient Safety E-Newsletter Starting this fall, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will be publishing a new online resource—AHRQ’s Patient Safety E-Newsletter. To sign up, send an e-mail message to: listserv@listserv.ahrq.gov.

U.S. Administration on Aging Seeks Partners to Promote Healthy Aging The U.S. Administration on Aging has begun enrolling partners in a new campaign called “You Can! Steps to Healthier Aging.” The campaign, which is based on growing awareness among public health officials and medical experts that even modest improvements in diet and activity can promote healthy aging, aims to boost physical activity and improve food choices among older Americans. http://www.aoa.gov/youcan

Web-Based Tool for Measuring Quality in Child Health Programs Child Health Care Quality Toolbox (formerly Child Health Toolbox) contains concepts, tips, and tools for evaluating the quality of health care for children. The redesigned toolbox enables users to download to their desktops all sections of the toolbox, including a new section on mental health measures. Sections include information on uses of quality measurement, established child health care quality measures, emerging quality measures, choosing quality measures, how to develop quality measures, resources. http://www.ahrq.gov/ctoolbx

GRANTS ALERT!

Help America Vote College Program—Deadline: Sept. 9 The US Election Assistance Commission is seeking proposals which will assist the Commission in developing and implementing the Help America Vote College Program. The purpose of the College Program is to encourage students enrolled at institutions of higher education (including community colleges) to assist state and local governments in the administration of elections by serving as nonpartisan poll workers or assistants, and to encourage state and local governments to use the services of the students participating in the College Program. http://www.eac.gov/

Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy Research Grants—Deadline: Sept. 13 The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health, is inviting investigators to submit research grant applications. The goal is to increase scientific understanding of the nature of health literacy and its relationship to healthy behaviors, illness prevention and treatment, chronic disease management, health disparities, risk assessment of environmental factors, and health outcomes, including mental and oral health. http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-04-116.html

School-Based Interventions to Prevent Obesity—Deadline: Oct. 1 This National Institutes of Health program announcement encourages the formation of partnerships between academic institutions and school systems in order to develop and implement controlled, school-based intervention strategies designed to reduce the prevalence of obesity in childhood. For more information, visit: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-04-145.html

Environmental Justice: Partnerships for Communication Program—Deadline: Oct. 17 The purpose of this program is to strengthen the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’ and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s support of research aimed at achieving environmental justice for socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved populations in the United States. Details at: http://www.niehs.nih.gov/translate/envjust/ envjust.htm.

Braitmayer Foundation Grants—Deadline: Nov. 15 The foundation offers grants of up to $10,000 to fund a broad range of K-12 education programs, with a particular interest in curricular reform initiatives and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those encouraging people of high ability and diverse background to enter and remain in K-12 teaching. For details, visit: http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.htm.

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The purpose of fellowships for New Americans is to provide opportunities for continuing generations of able and accomplished New Americans to achieve leadership in their chosen fields. [http://pdsoros.org/](http://pdsoros.org/)

PUBLICATIONS

Free Online Access to Community-Based Participatory Research Article from Education for Health Journal


Summer Edition of Economic Development America on “New Directions in Rural Economic Development,” has been published and is available for download from EDA’s Web site: [http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/Edevinfocoalition.xml](http://www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/Edevinfocoalition.xml)

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August 2004 is now available on the Taylor & Francis web site at: [http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=1M6TK9K2YCJ2](http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=1M6TK9K2YCJ2) Articles in this issue include the following: “The logic of collaboration in education and the human services” by Hal A Lawson [http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=0WBEC32D4KTEVJYT](http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=0WBEC32D4KTEVJYT); “Institutionalizing interdisciplinary health professions programs in higher education: the implications of one story and two laws” Phillip G Clark: [http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=D19Y5VY363821FAB](http://journalsonline.tandf.co.uk/link.asp?id=D19Y5VY363821FAB)

Overweight and Obesity in Canada: A Population Health Perspective

The new report is now available in the Publications section of the Canadian Institute for Health Information web site (links below). The report was commissioned by Canadian Institute for Health Information’s Canadian Population Health Initiative and authored by Dr. Kim Raine, Director and Professor at the Centre for Health Promotion Studies at the University of Alberta. The report is available for downloading at: [http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb dispPage.jsp?cw_page=GR_1130_E](http://secure.cihi.ca/cihiweb dispPage.jsp?cw_page=GR_1130_E)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Healthcare and Aging Awards “Recognizing Innovation and Quality”- Deadline: Sept. 17 In 2005 the awards will be given to organizations that have demonstrated high-quality, innovative programs that enhance the health-related quality of life in older adults. [http://asaging.org/awards/han.cfm](http://asaging.org/awards/han.cfm)

3rd Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference Call for Submissions - Deadline: Sept. 30 The conference will take place May 4-6, 2005 in Washington, D.C. The conference will raise awareness of the many benefits of green roofs, share new research findings and provide information on the latest designs, implementation techniques and products. Submissions are requested for three tracks. [http://www.greenroofs.org/](http://www.greenroofs.org/)

Advancing Science and Society Interactions Call for Contributors - Deadline: Oct. 15 The conference will take place February 3-5, 2005 in Seville, Spain. The conference is organised by the International Science Shop Network “Living Knowledge” and supported by the European Commission under its Science and Society Programme. For further information please contact the Conference Secretariat [conference@paxmediterranea.com](mailto:conference@paxmediterranea.com) or visit the conference website [http://www.scienceshops.org](http://www.scienceshops.org).

Soros Fellowships for New Americans - Deadline: Nov. 1 The purpose of fellowships for New Americans is to provide opportunities for continuing generations of able and accomplished New Americans to achieve leadership in their chosen fields. [http://pdsoros.org/](http://pdsoros.org/)

Donald A. B. Lindberg Fellowship - Nov. 15 Medical Library Association (MLA) is now accepting applications for the fellowship established by MLA to fund research aimed at expanding the research knowledgebase that links the information services provided by librarians to improved health care and advances in biomedical research. The endowment will provide a $25,000 grant to a qualified health professional, researcher, educator, administrator, or librarian. [http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/](http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/)

Cancer Prevention Research Small Grant Program - Deadline: Multiple The Division of Cancer Prevention of the National Cancer Institute invites applications that address developmental research in chemoprevention agent development, biomarkers, early detection, and nutrition science. The program is designed to aid and facilitate the growth of a nationwide cohort of scientists with a high level of research expertise in cancer prevention research. [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-04-147.html](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-04-147.html)